



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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U.S. Music Envoy Audiopharmacy to Visit Solomon Islands

American Hip-Hop band Audiopharmacy, from San Francisco, California, will arrive in Solomon Islands March 12 for an outreach tour sponsored by the United States Embassy. The band will hold a music workshop, offer a public performance, and reach out to youth audiences in Honiara and Auki. This tour is made possible through the American Music Abroad exchange program at the U.S. Department of State.

The events listed below are free of charge.

March 14 10:00 AM	Event: Music workshop for local emerging musicians and performing artists Venue: Solomon Islands College of Higher Education, Pavilion Building Limited space available. Please register at pdportmoresby@state.gov
March 14 4:00 PM	Event: Youth Outreach for Blue Light Program participants Venue: Rove Police Club
March 15 5:30 PM	Event: Public Concert Venue: Lakeside Stage, Honiara
March 16	Event: Youth Outreach Program Venue: Diocese of Auki, Solomon Islands

Audiopharmacy has performed domestically all over the West Coast and New York. Internationally, the band has taken the stage at festivals, concert halls and clubs in Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Holland, France, the United Kingdom and Japan. Audiopharmacy is a part of Audiopharmacy Prescriptions, a San Francisco-based international art collective, in which each artist strives to build community, as well as invoke consciousness, empowerment and respect for life in every creative endeavor shared with the world.

MEET THE BAND



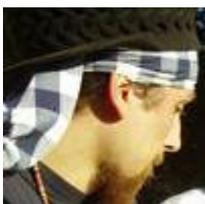
TEAO (PRODUCER/GUITAR/TURNTABLIST)

Teao hails from San Francisco, California. As a DJ/music producer and multi-instrumentalist, he founded an international art/music collective in 2002 called Audiopharmacy Prescriptions to raise a consciousness and global awareness of humanity's ability to build prosperous and harmonious communities through art and music. Though rooted rhythmically in hip-hop, as a producer Teao endeavors to unite the voices and sounds of many world cultures into the Audiopharmacy sound. Teao has a bachelor's degree in Communications from San Francisco State University and has hosted hip hop radio shows on KCSC, and KSCU's popular, "Curbside Show". He has worked as a school teacher at Bessie Carmichael Elementary School and Schools of Sacred Heart in San Francisco. Last, but not least, Teao is a proud family man and father to two amazing children, Shishin and Sakima.



RAS K'DEE (VOCALS/ KEYBOARD)

Ras K'Dee is from San Francisco, California, and is a Native California (Pomo)/ African musician, community educator, and renowned lyricist and producer. For K'dee, his musical inspiration is deeply rooted from his experience as a Pomo/African artist. K'dee invokes the songs and dances from traditional ceremonies of his native people, and tells stories of resistance, healing, community and empowerment that can be understood and felt universally by all people. In 2002, K'dee co-founded a Native youth media organization called Seventh Native American Generation (SNAG), which he currently co-directs. The mission of SNAG is to provide Native youth the opportunity to achieve balance and harmony, address historical and modern grievances, and explore and develop leadership and community skills through arts and cultural expression. As an educator and community activist, K'dee leads workshops weekly with Native youth and co-hosts the radio program "Bay Native Circle" on 94.1 FM in Northern California. K'dee has also been featured in Smithsonian Magazine (Summer 2010) and his awards include KQED American Indian Local Heroes Award, and Most Earnest and Up And Coming Band (2005).



KEEPYAHJOY (BASS/BUCKET DRUMS)

Keepyahjoy, born Christopher Romanelli, and raised in New York, he now lives in San Francisco. He is known in the streets from San Francisco to Tokyo as "The Bucketman," whose inspiring and infectious rhythms can have anyone within earshot to break out in dance. Keepyahjoy is an original member of Audiopharmacy and has toured the world with the band since 2004. He has been featured on many albums including Ras K Dee's Cloud Writer (2011), Gregg Green's World Citizen (2011), Audiopharmacy's U Forgot About Us (2010) and Spare Change (2007). Among other accomplishments, Keepyahjoy is also a multi-instrumentalist, music producer, film maker and loving father.



KWOME GUSTAVE (DRUMMER)

Kwome Gustave was born in 1980 into a family where music was as essential to life as food, water, air, and spirituality. Ras Kwome learned early that his destiny was to continue the musical work that his father, Ras Ibeshee, began with one of the most treasured bands from the US Virgin Islands – The Zionees. Playing drums at an early age, he worked hard to emulate Carlton Barret – the drummer for Bob Marley & the Wailers. After a few years, Ras Kwome's skills became apparent to his father, who then groomed him to become a future member of their band. At the age of 15, Ras Kwome began his professional career as the drummer for the Zionees with the skill and good vibes of a seasoned veteran. Together with his father, they held down the band's foundation of drum and bass alongside multi-instrumentalist and singer Ras Ibednego and keyboardist Sonny Andrews. The combination gave the group the versatility and heartfulness that made The Zionees one of reggae's premier bands. Now also a member of Audiopharmacy, Ras Kwome has toured and performed in Puerto Rico, New Orleans, Chicago, California, North Carolina, Boston, Virginia, Florida, and Hawaii.

American Music Abroad and Association of American Voices

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announced a partnership with the Association of American Voices known as American Music Abroad. The partnership brings American music artists to engage with people across the world through music in order to foster greater understanding. American Music Abroad activities focus on younger and underserved audiences in approximately 40 countries with little or no access to live American performances.

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs promotes international mutual understanding through a wide range of academic, cultural, private-sector, professional, and sports exchange programs. These international exchanges engage youth, students, educators, artists, athletes, and emerging leaders in many fields in the United States and in more than 160 countries.

The Association of American Voices presents concerts, workshops and master classes, and summer youth performing arts academies to over 200,000 people in 110 countries during the past two decades.

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